

**MONTANA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
UTILITY DIVISION
AGENDA NO. 00-11-06**

Date Published: November 2, 2000
For Work Week Commencing: November 6, 2000
Business Meeting: November 6, 2000, 10:00 a.m.

General Introduction This agenda is the Commission's Utility Division agenda for the work week designated. In the later part of each week (generally, Thursday by 2:00 p.m.) prior to the work week to which an agenda pertains, the agenda is posted on the public information bulletin board at the Commission offices, deposited in the mail directed to all persons who have properly requested notice by mail, emailed to all persons who have properly requested notice by email, and posted to the Public Service Commission's worldwide web site located at <http://www.psc.state.mt.us>.

Place of Meetings All meetings are held at the Commission offices, 1701 Prospect Avenue, Helena, Montana, unless otherwise noted.

Inquiries General inquiries concerning this Utility Division agenda and subscribing to notice by mail may be made to Dennis Crawford at (406) 444-6182 or Dan Elliott at (406) 444-6187. They may refer inquiries to another person within the agency.

Accommodation for Persons with Disabilities Anyone needing an accommodation for physical, hearing, or sight impairment in order to attend a scheduled meeting should contact the Commission secretary at (406) 444-6199 sufficiently prior to the meeting to allow accommodations to be made.

Work Sessions All items identified below are for Commission discussion or action on the day designated (Dan).

1. Discuss MPC Sale – Placeholder (11/6/00)
2. D2000.4.47 – Flathead Electric Cooperative, Inc. and Energy Northwest Inc – Discussion and Action on Draft Declaratory Ruling on Petition for Declaratory Ruling (11/6/00)
3. D2000.8.113 – MPC Electric and Gas Rate Case – discussion, direction on moving hearing date, other matters as necessary (11/6/00)
4. D2000.10.176 & D99.4.106 – Energy West Montana – EWM 2000 Tracker, EWM 1999 Summary Closure – Introduction to EWM's 2000 tracker, discuss possibility of consolidating EWM's 1999 summary closure filing, other matters as necessary (11/6/00)
5. D2000.9.147, D2000.10.171 – Havre Pipeline Co – Application to Discount Fuel – Discussion (11/6/00)

6. D98.10.246 – Columbia Heights Water Company – Service Quality Complaint/Investigation – Discussion and direction regarding CHWC compliance with PSC order (11/6/00)
7. D2000.8.124 – Qwest – Qwest/Touch America Arbitration – To act on motion for protective order from Qwest (11/6/00)
8. D2000.8.120 – Now Communications and Qwest – Approval of Interconnection Agreement – To consider and act on the interconnection agreement (11/6/00)
9. FCC CC Docket No. 96-45 – Western Wireless petition to FCC for ETC status on Crow Reservation – Further update on FCC proceeding, direction (11/6/00)
10. L-00.5.3-RUL – Hot Springs Telephone – Amending ARM 38.5.1107, Interest on Customer Deposits Rule – Further discussion and direction on proposed rule amendment (11/6/00)
11. D2000.8.113 – MPC – Interim Increases for Electric and Gas – Consider Interim Increases (11/8/00)
12. D2000.6.89 – Qwest – Permanent Price Docket – Discuss Commission need for Fact Sheets, issues matrix etc. (11/8/00)

Weekly Scheduling Meeting – Will be held at 9:45 a.m. on the day of the Business Meeting

Action Items All items identified below are for action at the Commission business meeting.

1. ENERGY WEST, INC. DOCKET NO. D2000.10.174 (Eric)

On October 19, 2000, EW requested authority to incur short-term debt up to \$22,000,000. The borrowings are in the form of notes, the first is an \$11,000,000 revolving note with First Bank Montana, the second is an \$11,000,000 renewal Promissory Note with Norwest Bank Montana. The short-term borrowings are necessary to supply EW with working capital. The working capital needs set forth in the application are increased demands for cash during the construction season when revenues are low due to warmer weather as well as cash needed to purchase gas which is placed in storage. A default order has been drafted.

2. MDU RESOURCES GROUP, INC. DOCKET NO. D2000.10.173 (Eric)

On October 18, 2000, MDU filed an application for authority to issue over a two-year period some or all of the following kinds of securities: (1) not to exceed \$750,000,000 of the Company's Common Stock; (2) not to exceed \$112,500,000 of the Company's Preferred Stock and/or Preferred Stock A; (3) not to exceed \$225,000,000 of the Company's secured debt securities including first mortgage bonds, or secured medium-term notes, or other secured debt securities, and/or unsecured debt securities, notes, or other evidences of indebtedness, and/or guaranties issued from time to time; (4) not to exceed \$225,000,000 of stock purchase contracts to purchase Common Stock, and/or stock purchase units and/or warrants; (5) not to exceed \$225,000,000 of other securities including hybrid securities issuable directly by the Company or guaranteed by the Company such as convertible or unconvertible preferred securities, puttable or callable instruments, together with associated put or call rights, subordinated debt, and mandatorily convertible instruments.

The proceeds are to be used for funding the Company's capital requirements, for the refunding of its outstanding obligations, for corporate development (including, without limitation, the issuance of any of the securities in a private placement with the seller or sellers of a business, or its assets, being acquired, or the issuance and sale of the securities in one or more public offerings, the cash proceeds therefrom being applied to finance the acquisition of businesses or business assets, or the issuance and exchange of the securities for other securities) and for other general corporate purposes. A default order has been drafted.

Notice Items All items identified below are noticed for public participation purposes. Unless otherwise stated in the text of the notice, the items will be action items on the next following agenda or a subsequent agenda and participation may be had by submitting written comments to the Public Service Commission, 1701 Prospect Avenue, P.O. Box 202601, Helena, Montana, 59620-2601, within 5 calendar days following publication of this agenda. Public comments on a noticed matter may also be submitted within the required time through the PSC's web-based comment form at <http://psc.state.mt.us/PublicComment/PublicComment.htm>. Comments should reference the docket number of the matter.

1. Citizens Communications Docket No. N2000.10.181 (Scott)

On October 18, 2000, Citizens filed Advice Letter No. MT-00-08 tariff pages introducing Citizens Select plan for residential Customers. Select plan offers residential customers a plan containing selections for

services/products and a flat rate individual access line for a single monthly rate. Also in this filing is an administrative cleanup reclassifying Rotary Service from General to Local service in the Tariff.

Information Items All items identified below are for information only.

Tentative Action Items for Agenda 00-11-13

New Filings Received in Past Week

- N2000.10.178 – Central Montana Communications – Tariff revisions
- N2000.10.179 – Ronan Telephone Co – Tariff Revisions
- N2000.10.180 – Ronan Telephone – Tariff Revisions
- N2000.10.181 – Citizens – Tariff Revisions
- N2000.10.182 – WorldCom /Intermedia – Transfer of Control to WorldCom
- N2000.10.183 – Continental Energy Service – Proposed Silver Bow generation project
- N2000.11.184 – OnlineChoice.com – Application for electricity broker